

CLAIMS

1. A method of determining a price associated with a secondary address to be used as an alias for a primary address identifying a remote data object on a computer network, said
5 method comprising the step of:
using a length algorithm whereby shorter secondary addresses are associated with higher prices.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said length algorithm provides a relationship
10 whereby price is inversely proportional to length of a secondary address for at least a range of secondary address lengths.
3. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 2, further comprising the step of:
using a relevance algorithm whereby secondary addresses determined to have a pre-
15 existing relevance to users are associated with higher prices.
4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 2 and 3, further comprising the step of:
using a duration algorithm whereby a secondary addresses are allocated to be as said
alias for a predetermine use period whereby longer use periods are associated with higher
20 prices.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said duration algorithm provides a relationship whereby price is proportional to use period of a secondary address.
- 25 6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said secondary address is formed of numeric characters.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein an address prefix formed of alphanumeric characters is concatenated with said secondary address to form an internet URL address.
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8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said address prefix is a common address prefix that is an internet URL address for a mapping server operable to map said secondary address to said primary address.

9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said remote data object is an internet web page.

10. Apparatus for determining a price associated with a secondary address to be used as an alias for a primary address identifying a remote data object on a computer network, said apparatus comprising:

length pricing logic using a length algorithm whereby shorter secondary addresses are associated with higher prices.

11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

relevance pricing logic using a relevance algorithm whereby secondary addresses determined to have a pre-existing relevance to users are associated with higher prices.

12. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 10 and 11, further comprising:

duration pricing logic using a duration algorithm whereby a secondary addresses are allocated to be as said alias for a predetermine use period whereby longer use periods are associated with higher prices.

13. A computer program product storing a computer program for controlling operation of a computer to determine a price associated with a secondary address to be used as an alias for a primary address identifying a data object on a computer network, said apparatus comprising:

length pricing code using a length algorithm whereby shorter secondary addresses are associated with higher prices.

14. A computer program product as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

relevance pricing code using a relevance algorithm whereby secondary addresses determined to have a pre-existing relevance to users are associated with higher prices.

15. A computer program product as claimed in any one of claims 13 and 14, further comprising:

duration pricing code using a duration algorithm whereby a secondary addresses are allocated to be as said alias for a predetermine use period whereby longer use periods are associated with higher prices.